AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A process for preparing a pet's chew comprising
- preparing a mixture of a starch derivative, a plasticizer and a fibrous material;
- converting said mixture into a thermoplastic starch; and
- moulding the thermoplastic starch into the desired pet's chew,
wherein the starch derivative is a chemically modified starch.

2. (original) A process according to claim 1, wherein the chemically modified starch is an oxidized starch, starch ester, starch ether, hydrolysed or partially hydrolysed starch or crosslinked starch.

3. (currently amended) A process according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein the chemically modified starch is a hydroxyalkylated, carboxymethylated, acetylated starch or acid hydrolysed starch.

4. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim1, wherein the starch derivative is a potato, wheat, corn, tapioca, rice or pea starch derivative.

5. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the mixture further comprises a native starch or a physically modified starch, or a second chemically modified starch.

6. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim1, wherein the plasticizer is ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of polyols, esters of citric acid and urea.

7. (original) A process according to claim 6, wherein the plasticizer is glycerol.

8. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the plasticizer is present in the mixture in an amount of from 5 to 35 wt.%, ~~preferably 18 to 35 wt.%,~~ based on the dry solid weight of the mixture.

9. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the fibrous material is ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of cellulose, hennep, coconut, grass, flax, potato and other natural fibers.

10. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the fibrous material is present in the mixture in an amount of from 1 to 35 wt.%, ~~preferably from 1 to 25, more preferably 2 to 20 wt.%,~~ based on the dry solid weight of the mixture.

11. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the fibrous material consists of fibers having a length between 23 and 2000 μm~~, preferably between 60 and300 μm~~.

12. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the mixture comprises water in an amount of from 7 to 35 wt.%, based on the total weight of the mixture.

13. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the mixture further comprises a branched polysaccharide, such as a gum, an alginate or derivative thereof, a malto-oligosaccharide, such as maltose, or a combination thereof.

14. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the mixture further comprises one or more additives ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of[[,]] mono- or di-glycerides, lecithin, oils, fats ~~(preferably rinicus oil)~~, fatty acids or salts thereof ~~(such as calcium stearate)~~, filler materials, vitamins, coloring agents, aromas, sweeteners and taste enhancers.

15. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the mixture is converted into a thermoplastic starch by extrusion at a temperature of from 95 to180°C~~, preferably from 100 to150°C~~.

16. (original) A process according to claim 15, wherein the mixture is extruded through a mesh having a pore size of from 1 to 5 mm and cut to produce a granulate material.

17. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the moisture content of the thermoplastic starch is conditioned to 5 to 20 wt.%, ~~preferably from 6 to 15 wt.%, more preferably from 7 to 10 wt.%,~~ based on the total weight of the thermoplastic starch.

18. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic starch is moulded by injection moulding at a temperature ranging from 80 to200°C, ~~preferably from 110 to170°C,~~ into a mould of suitable shape and size.

19. (currently amended) A pet's chew obtainable by a process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1.

20. (currently amended) A pet's chew according to claim 19 having the form of a dog chew, or which is a bar or is hollow or is of natural shape.